

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant thanks Examiner for the detailed Office Action dated March 6, 2006. In response to the issues raised, the Applicant offers the following submissions and amendments. Furthermore, we enclose a Terminal Disclaimer linking the term and ownership of any patent granted on the present application to that of co-pending USSN 10/773,194.

Amendments

The Abstract has been amended to remove 'claim-like' language such as 'comprising'.

The claims have been amended to address the claim objections and statutory double patenting issues identified by the Examiner. Accordingly the claims do not introduce any new matter.

Abstract

As discussed above, we believe that the amended Abstract provides a clear and concise description of the disclosure in compliance with 37 CFR 1.72.

Double Patenting

Claims 1-18, 21-22 and 38-54 stand provisionally rejected as not patentably distinct from claims 1-18 and 38-54 of co-pending USSN 10/773,194 in light of US 6,019,457. While the Applicant disagrees that any claims of the present application are an obvious derivation of '194 in light of '457, we enclose a Terminal Disclaimer to '194 in the interests of expeditious prosecution.

Claims 19, 20, 23 – 37 stand provisionally rejected for statutory double patenting for claiming the same invention as co-pending USSN 10/773,194. Claim 19 has been amended such that it's characterizing feature aligns with the other independent claims. This amendment to claim 19 is supported by the corresponding Statement of Invention at page 2, line 26 to page 3, line 6.

In light of the amendment to claim 19, dependent claims 20 to 37 are likewise patentably distinguished from the claims of '194.

Informalities

Claim 22 has been amended to correct the typographical error identified by the Examiner.

Claims – 35USC§112

Likewise, the amendment to claim 19 addresses the antecedent issue in claim 21 identified by the Examiner.

It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejections have been successfully traversed and the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration is courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

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